

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes of November 8, 2007.

Members present:

Jim Terry (chair), Harry Beyer, Ken Miller, Jim Coutre, Barbara Pike, Elissa Brown, Andrea Siani, Gerry Boyle.

Others Present:

Dinny McIntyre, Marcia Rasmussen

A group of concerned Concord citizens.

Materials Distributed: none

Motions:

1. Approved Minutes of November 1, 2007 meeting.
2. The BFRT route to follow the RR right of way from Main Street (Route 62) to the Sudbury Town Line. Approved; 6 votes, 2 abstain (JC, AS).
3. Recommendation that the section of BFRT south of Powder Mill Road not be built until Sudbury decides on their route. Approved; 6 votes, 2 abstain (JC, AS).
4. Direct VHB to include an ADA restroom facility in the West Concord business area. Approved; Unanimous.

Issues Discussed:

Meeting opened with a discussion of the Town Meeting (11/05/2007) vote. The Consensus was that the Committee has to move along to have everything ready for the Selectmen to submit the 25% design to the April Town Meeting for a vote.

The discussion of alternate routes to the RR right of way submitted by VHB was continued; Harry is concerned with accessibility to Willard and Sanborn Schools and the ramp at Powder Mill Road. Andrea related that two of the alternate routes do not have access to Willard. Gerry stated that all of the alternate routes had many more driveway crossings than the RR route, which is a safety concern. Also two of the alternate routes are on Dakin road which will require collaboration with Sudbury. Elissa moved Motion 2 (above), which was seconded and approved.

Andrea doesn't see process for people management and feels that we are trading one resource for another (White Pond for BFRT). Jim C. agrees and feel we are premature and lacking big pieces of information about the Jennie Dugan swamp. Elissa stated that there are no environmental issues per the NRC. Jim T. said we have to find ways to discourage inappropriate use of the trail.

Andrea related issues with inappropriate use at White Pond along the County Road. Barbara said that we need to keep people on the trail. Ken stated that the situation can't get much worse and more eyes on the trail might help.

Dinny stated that the Town is committed to more aggressive enforcement. JimT. suggested a subcommittee to work with the WPAC to address the problems of White Pond. Andrea will contact Fred Lindgren of WPAC.

In an attempt to alleviate some of these issues a motion was made, **seconded, and approved** to recommend to VHB to not build the trail south of Powder Mill road until Sudbury decides on their route (Motion 3 above).

A discussion of handicap parking followed. Barbara stated that there are 5 or 6 handicap spaces at the WC railroad station. Marcia said the land at the junction of Old Marlboro

Road and Williams Road is not town land. Barbara **suggested** that the committee direct VHB to find one handicap parking spot near Williams Road. Marcia suggested we look at other arrangements than to have the MBTA have **a restroom open additional hours**. Jim T. asked if we could get the MBTA and the Town to co-fund a restroom in WC center. Barbara made a motion, **which was seconded and approved**, that we direct VHB to include an ADA restroom facility in the West Concord business area. A subcommittee of Harry, Barbara, Elissa and Gerry was formed to meet with the supporters of "hard surface" trail **for the purpose of learning more about stabilized surfaces**.

Citizens' comments:

Unfair to spotlight opinion of proponents of paved surface when citizens want non-asphalt surface.

Suggestion that the committee consider a ramp like the one at Maple St. in Lexington.

Need help on people management for White Pond.

Restrooms in WC should not be added to the Rail Trail Budget.

There has been no presentation on stabilized soil surface.

Support for paved surface not completely acceptable in town.

Next Meeting: Gates and Bollards; Trail through West Concord Center